

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 23-25 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-30 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended). A method for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking medical procedures comprising the steps of:

collecting first outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals in a first period of time via one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities;

~~converting at least some of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;~~

establishing a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the first outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with ~~the~~ one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

collecting second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical

procedures for the plurality of individuals in a second period of time via the one or more user interfaces located at the one or more user entities;

converting at least some of the second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the first and second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals to a data processor.

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

posting the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

collecting the first and second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals from at least one user entity at a plurality of discrete intervals.

7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

generating the at least one outcomes monitoring report from at least two of the plurality of discrete intervals.

8 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals located at the one or more user entities; and

individually identifying and converting the second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals located at each user entity of the one or more user entities;

wherein the second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals located at the one or more user entities comprises the outcomes data group.

9 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report includes the at least one outcomes result for a selected user entity of the one or more user entities and at least one comparison of the norm to the least one outcomes result for the selected user entity.

10 (Previously Presented). At least one processor readable medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing

the method as recited in claim 1.

11 (Currently Amended). A method for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking surgical procedures comprising the steps of:

collecting first primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including a plurality of responses to a set of indicators associated with one or more surgical procedures for a plurality of patients in a first period of time via one or more user interfaces located at one or more surgical centers;

~~converting at least some of the outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with one of the one or more surgical procedures for the plurality of patients into at least one outcomes result;~~

establishing a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the first primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with ~~the~~ one or more surgical procedures for the plurality of patients;

collecting second primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including a plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for the plurality of patients in a second period of

time via the one or more user interfaces located at the one or more surgical centers;

converting at least some of the second primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one of the one or more surgical procedures for the plurality of patients into at least one outcomes result;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

12 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the first and second primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for the plurality of patients to a data processor.

13 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the at least one outcomes

monitoring report.

14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

posting the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

16 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

~~collecting the outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures located at the one or more surgical centers; and~~

individually identifying and converting the second primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for each surgical center of the one or more surgical centers;

wherein the second primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the

set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for a plurality of patients from the one or more surgical centers comprises the outcomes data group.

17 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report includes the at least one outcomes result for a selected surgical center of the one or more surgical centers and at least one comparison of the norm to the selected one of the least one outcomes result for the selected surgical center.

18 (Previously Presented). At least one processor readable medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 11.

19 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking medical procedures, the apparatus comprising:

a data collection portion including one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities, wherein the data collection portion collects first outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical

procedures in a first period of time for a plurality of individuals and second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one or more medical procedures in a second period of time for the plurality of individuals;

a data processor portion to receive the first and second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with one of the one or more medical procedures from the data collection portion, ~~and~~ wherein the data processor portion comprises:

a converter portion to convert at least some of the second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

a norm establishing portion to establish a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the first outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

a comparison portion to compare a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

a report generation portion to generate at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

20 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a webpage portion to post the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

21 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a security portion to selectively restrict access to the first and second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals, the at least one outcomes result and the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

22 (Cancelled).

23 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first and second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals are primary source data sets.

24 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking medical procedures, the article of manufacture comprising:

at least one processor readable medium; and

instructions carried on the at least one processor readable medium;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable from the at least one processor readable medium by at least one processor and thereby cause the at least one processor to operate so as to:

collect first outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals in a first period of time via one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities;

~~convert at least some of the outcomes data for the one or more indicators sets associated with one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;~~

establish a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the first outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with ~~the~~ one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

collect second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals in a second period of time via the one or more user interfaces located at the one or more user entities;

convert at least some of the second outcomes data for the one or more indicators sets associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

compare a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generate at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

25 (Currently Amended). At least one processor readable medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to collect and report outcomes data for benchmarking medical procedures by performing the steps of:

collecting first outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals in a first period of time via one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities;

~~converting at least some of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;~~

establishing a norm based at least in part on an outcomes

data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the first outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with ~~the~~ one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

collecting second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals in a second period of time via the one or more user interfaces located at the one or more user entities;

converting at least some of the second outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

26. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

27. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, wherein the set of indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

28. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 19, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

29. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

30. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.